



# CHELSEA

## Suffolk County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Just 1.8 square miles, Chelsea lies next to the scenic Boston Harbor on the Mystic and Chelsea Rivers. A glorious view of Boston's nearby skyline can be enjoyed from the waterfront and from numerous hills and high points throughout the City.

Settled in 1624, Chelsea is an old city with a rich and proud history. The Industrial Revolution transformed the once pastoral suburb into a bustling manufacturing center. Chelsea flourished and its ambitious, ethnically diverse population boomed.

Undaunted by a massive fire in 1908 and again in 1973, the citizens and business people of Chelsea rebuilt their City each time with a remarkable zeal and determination. Growth resumed; prosperity returned. Hundreds of thriving businesses were proud to call Chelsea their home.

Although noticeable industrial, Chelsea has many other important assets - tree-lined streets with affordable, well-kept homes, ballparks, playgrounds, excellent schools and a bustling, friendly downtown, plus three National Register Districts.

Major highways and active rail lines traverse the City; commuter bus and train services are readily available, too. Logan International Airport, the eighth busiest airport in the world, is just five minutes away. Area import/export operations are facilitated by a well-marked network of commercial roads that services the airport.

Chelsea's location has always been excellent, its neighbors friendly and its workforce exceptional. It is Chelsea's new pride, new spirit of cooperation and new leadership that are making the difference.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Revere on the north and east, Everett on the west, and Boston on the south. On the south, the Chelsea River and the Mystic River form the boundary, on the east, the Chelsea River and Mill Creek. The western boundary is partially formed by the Island End River. Chelsea is 2 miles north of Boston, 44 miles northeast of Worcester, and 220 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 2.48 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 2.19 sq. miles

**Population:** 28,710

**Density:** 13,110 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Boston North

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (617) 889-8200

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1739

As a city: 1857

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	10,073		
Democrats	6,391	63.4	%
Republicans	661	6.6	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,021	30.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Chelsea city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	35,080	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	35,080	100.0
Male.....	17,617	50.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	16,984	48.4
Female.....	17,463	49.8	Mexican.....	660	1.9
Under 5 years.....	2,829	8.1	Puerto Rican.....	5,363	15.3
5 to 9 years.....	2,915	8.3	Cuban.....	227	0.6
10 to 14 years.....	2,497	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	10,734	30.6
15 to 19 years.....	2,259	6.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	18,096	51.6
20 to 24 years.....	2,785	7.9	White alone.....	13,424	38.3
25 to 34 years.....	6,674	19.0	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	5,470	15.6	Total population.....	35,080	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,426	9.8	In households.....	34,127	97.3
55 to 59 years.....	1,299	3.5	Householder.....	11,888	33.9
60 to 64 years.....	1,053	3.0	Spouse.....	4,388	12.5
65 to 74 years.....	1,901	5.4	Child.....	11,003	31.4
75 to 84 years.....	1,391	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	8,312	23.7
85 years and over.....	641	1.8	Other relatives.....	3,625	10.3
Median age (years).....	31.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	998	2.8
18 years and over.....	25,512	72.7	Nonrelatives.....	3,223	9.2
Male.....	12,735	36.3	Unmarried partner.....	842	2.4
Female.....	12,777	36.4	In group quarters.....	953	2.7
21 years and over.....	24,062	68.6	Institutionalized population.....	878	2.5
62 years and over.....	4,526	12.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	75	0.2
65 years and over.....	3,933	11.2	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,672	4.8	Total households.....	11,888	100.0
Female.....	2,261	6.4	Family households (families).....	7,614	64.0
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	4,327	36.4
One race.....	32,770	93.4	Married-couple family.....	4,388	36.9
White.....	20,328	57.9	With own children under 18 years.....	2,403	20.2
Black or African American.....	2,544	7.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,384	20.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	170	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	1,542	13.0
Asian.....	1,647	4.7	Nonfamily households.....	4,274	36.0
Asian Indian.....	121	0.3	Householder living alone.....	3,421	28.8
Chinese.....	213	0.6	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,278	10.8
Filipino.....	75	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,843	40.7
Japanese.....	13	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,589	21.8
Korean.....	37	0.1	Average household size.....	2.87	(X)
Vietnamese.....	870	2.5	Average family size.....	3.50	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	318	0.9	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	32	0.1	Total housing units.....	12,337	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	11,888	96.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	17	-	Vacant housing units.....	449	3.6
Samoan.....	5	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	10	-	occasional use.....	20	0.2
Some other race.....	8,049	22.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	2,310	6.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:<sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	11,888	100.0
White.....	22,201	63.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,440	28.9
Black or African American.....	3,037	8.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	8,448	71.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	328	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.87	(X)
Asian.....	1,793	5.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.87	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	110	0.3			
Some other race.....	9,983	28.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	560
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Conventional Federal:	350
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**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	161
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Federal (Section 8):	311
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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Chelsea is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. Logan International Airport is close to all parts of Chelsea, providing excellent air freight and passenger service. Chelsea based trucking firms specialize in forwarding air-based freight to land-based freight.

### Major Highways

The Tobin Memorial Bridge is the principal highway link with Boston. It is tied into the Boston Central Artery system, and connects at the Chelsea end to the Northeast Expressway, providing direct access to the coastal areas north of Boston. Principal highways are U.S. Route 1 and State Route 16.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston from Chelsea. Travel time: 12-13 min.; no MBTA parking. Conrail provides freight service to Chelsea and runs a "Perishables Express" service from the West Coast to the New England Produce Market in Chelsea. Contact number for Conrail: (617) 783-6222. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number STRR: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Chelsea is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route service to Haymarket Station in Boston, which connects with the Red and Green Lines to Maverick Station in East Boston and to Wonderland Station in Revere on the Blue Line. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

Chelsea has port facilities located on both the Chelsea River and the Island End River. Most of the freight traffic consists of petroleum and petroleum products. Port of Boston Authority facilities are available within a short trucking distance. The New England Produce Market in Chelsea is the major center for produce distribution in New England and Eastern Canada.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Soldier's Home In Mass.

### Long Term Care

Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home

Cottage Manor Nursing Home

Eastpointe Nursing Care Cente

Soldiers' Home In Mass.

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.